

REMARKS

The Examiner has asserted that the claims are directed to purportedly patentably distinct inventions under 35 U.S.C. §121, requiring election to one of two alleged groups of claims, namely claims 1-7 (Group A) and claims 8-14 (Group B).

Applicants hereby elect Group A, consisting of claims 1-7, for prosecution in the application. This election is made without waiver, estoppel, or prejudice to the filing of one or more related applications directed to the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

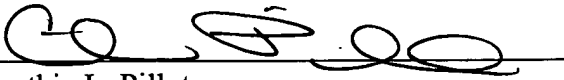
The Examiner has also asserted a species election, requiring Applicants to elect one of two purportedly distinct species. Applicants hereby elect the species illustrated in Figs. 2-4, on which claims 1-5 and 7 read. Applicants submit that claim 1 is generic to both species.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing amendments conform this application to the Examiner's restriction requirement and species election dated April 7, 2004. The undersigned would welcome a call at the number listed below if such would advance the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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